REMARKS:

Claims 1-6, 12-22 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice. No amendments have been made to remaining claims 7-11 and 23, which stand rejected only under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Thus, no new or additional searching is required should the Examiner, in view of the remarks below, find claims 7-11 and 23 unobvious upon reconsideration.

Claims 7-11 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.103(a) as being obvious over Moussa (UK Patent Application 2328775) in view of Shun (U.S. Patent 6,887,082).

As discussed in the Applicant's Response dated September 29, 2009, claim 7 was amended to recite, in relevant part:

> ...a translucent casing accommodating the base material; wherein said membranous model includes at least two portions extending out of said casing, said portions having been artificially added to a body cavity model from which said membranous model is formed.

Support for this amendment is found paragraph [0144] of the published U.S. Application, which describes the guide portions illustrated in Figs. 4 and 7 and that are connected to the body cavity model inside the base material.

The addition to the membranous model of at least two portions that extend out of the casing that surrounds the base material allows a fluid, such as simulated blood, to be realistically pumped through the model so that air bubbles are readily removed. It is very important for a catheter

simulator to fully purge air from the body cavity model because remaining air trapped inside the cavity model greatly increases friction against the catheter, thereby decreasing the realism experienced by a user of the simulator. However, because the body cavity model is both surrounded by a base material and housed inside a casing, one cannot directly manipulate the body cavity model (such as by squeezing) to remove air bubbles.

Moussa's apparatus cannot purge air from the body cavity model as fluid is pumped in because it has only one portion in connection with the body cavity model and extending from the case. This is not surprising, because the function of Moussa's extending portion is simply to allow for injection of a liquid or evacuation of a liquid. In contrast, the applicant's "at least two portions extending out of the casing" provide that liquid can be introduced through a first portion while air is purged through a second portion. Stated another way, the injection of a contrast agent for x-ray imaging (page 6, lines 19-23 of Moussa) through a single extending portion is for a totally different purpose and achieves a function very different than the applicant's at least two extending portions (which allow introduction of a fluid with the simultaneous extraction of air bubbles from the body cavity model).

This functional benefit in a body cavity model for a catheter simulator is not disclosed in the cited art. Nor is a second extending portion needed by Moussa's device, because the purpose of Moussa's simulator is to provide a simulation of procedures that are guided by ultrasound or fluoroscopy (e.g., x-rays). See, for example, Moussa's Abstract, as well as page 1, lines 25-27, and page 6, lines 19-23. Once the contrast agent fluid in Moussa's simulator is no longer needed, it can simply be evacuated from the same extending portion through which is was introduced by syringe 30.

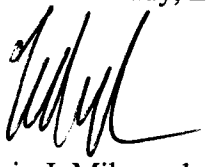
Consequently, that there is no clear or obvious reason why additional extending portions would be added through the case 2 of Moussa. Because the purpose of the applicant's model (catheter procure simulation) and function of the additional extending portion claimed by the applicant is distinct from that disclosed in the cited art, claim 7 (as well as claim 23), and all claims depending from claim 7, would be unobvious in view of the cited art.

In view of the remarks above, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and a Notice of Allowance issued for claims 7-11 and 23.

Should there be any fee due for an extension of time, please charge or apply it to Deposit Account 170055.

Respectfully submitted,

Quarles & Brady, LLP



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